CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 29 - The Roman Church Undertakes Reform, 1545-156

1. *Reform Is Universally Desired*
    a. *The disgrace of the Babylonian Captivity, the scandal of the Great Schism, and the many and gross abuses which disfigured the life of the Roman Church had been a sore grief to all true Christians*
2. *Ximenes*
    a. *Queen Isabella undertook to bring about a reform in the Church in Spain. The outcome was that the Church in Spain acquired a devoted and able clergy. For the rest everything remained the same in the Church in Spain.*
3. *Charles V Chooses Aleander*
    a. *For a short time Charles hoped to use Luther to bring about a reform in the entire Church, as his grandmother Isabella had used Ximenes to bring about reform in the Church in Spain.*
    b. *At the Diet of Worms, Luther maintained that church councils could err and had erred, and that he could prove it.*
    c. *Having crushed Luther and the Reformation with the help of the papacy, he would turn against his ally, make himself master of it, and impose the Spanish reform upon the entire Church.*
4. *Pope Adrian VI*
    a. *Pope Adrian tried, according to the emperor's wishes and his own ardent desire, to introduce the Spanish reform in Rome.*
    b. *To introduce the Spanish reform would deprive all these thousands of their jobs and income.*
    c. *He commissioned one of his messengers to go to Germany and admit that the papal government in Rome was the chief source of corruption in the Church.*
    d. *The example of Pope Adrian VI and his efforts to reform the Roman Church awakened in them a new zeal for reform.*
5. *The Council of Trent*
    a. *Meanwhile, abuses continued to flourish in the Roman Church, and the Reformation spread. Emperor Charles was anxious to reunite the Protestants and the Catholics.*
    b. *Earnest Christians in the Roman Church continued to clamor for reform.*
    c. *The Council of Trent is a milestone in the history of the Roman Catholic Church, for it marks a triumph for the papacy.*
    d. *The Protestant churches in Germany, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, England, and Scotland had formulated creeds in which they declared their faith.*
    e. *Now the Council which met in Trent formulated a creed for the Roman Church.*
    f. *A great reform had been brought about in the Roman Church, but that Church had not changed its essential character.*
    g. *Over against Protestantism the Roman Church in the Council of Trent had definitely and strongly upheld and reasserted its Catholic system.*
    h. *For a number of years the heat of the Reformation had rendered the religious condition of the Church fluid.*
    i. *The churches of the Reformation now found arrayed against them a reformed and revived Roman Church.*